



Dkt No. PP01612.009  
2300-1612.10  
PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

PALIARD et al.

Confirmation No.: 4593

Serial No.: 10/643,679

Group Art Unit: 1648

Filing Date: August 18, 2003

Examiner: Baq Q. Li

Title: ACTIVATION OF HCV-SPECIFIC T CELLS

**RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT FOR RESTRICTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Restriction Requirement dated November 24, 2004 for which a response was initially due by December 24, 2004. Accordingly applicants request an extension of time in which to respond. A check to cover the required fee is attached.

The Examiner required election of one of the following groups of claims:

Group I. Claims 1 and 3-7, drawn to a fusion protein and a composition consisting essentially of the fusion peptide or isolated HCV polypeptides, wherein the fusion protein and isolated polypeptides consist essentially of NS3, NS4, NS5a and core;

Group II. Claims 2-6 and 8, drawn to a fusion protein and a composition consisting essentially of the fusion peptide or isolated HCV polypeptides, wherein the fusion protein and isolated polypeptides consist essentially of NS3, NS4, NS5a, NS5b and core;

Group III. Claim 23-33 and 37-41, drawn to a method for activating T cells comprising use of a fusion protein consisting essentially of NS3, NS4, NS5a and core;

Group IV. Claims 23-33, 37-40 and 42, drawn to a method for activating T cells comprising use of a fusion protein consisting essentially of NS3, NS4, NS5a, NS5b and core.

Additionally, the Examiner requires that applicants elect certain species should either of Groups III or IV be elected.

In response to the restriction requirement, applicants elect Group II, claims 2-6 and 8, without traverse. No species election is therefore required.

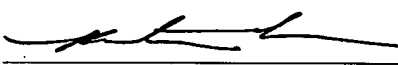
Applicants expressly reserve their right under 35 USC §121 to file one or more divisional applications directed to the nonelected subject matter during the pendency of this application. Moreover, applicants understand that withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of allowable product claims will be rejoined in accordance with the provisions of MPEP §821.04.

Please direct all further communications in this application to:

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Respectfully submitted,

Date: 11/24/05

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